

Do not vote for a President who will turn Asia and the global society to America's enemy

-Appeal from Asian Intellectuals at the Republican National Convention

America is all geared to the Presidential elections with the July Democratic Convention during which John Kerry was nominated as candidate for the party and the September Republican Convention that will nominate George W. Bush as theirs. We the people of Asia appeal to all American voters for using the forthcoming elections a better chance to contribute to the world democracy.

We appeal to all you democratic American citizens of peace and goodwill that America stands at the crossroad. It faces whether or not to elect a President who will turn Asia and all the rest of the globe to its enemy, whether or not to witness its leadership over the civilized nations will completely break down. You are at the crossway of voting for peace or for a permanent war.

We remind you that more than ever, the past four years have crumbled the morale of American leadership and dramatically raised rejection of American policies from the global societies. The wrong of all was the war on Iraq. One and half year after the attack, we intellectuals from Asia see once again that what America chose to do is immoral, unlawful, and unjustifiable. The war on Iraq is an immoral war conceived from the abuse of sorrow and anger that Americans felt at the events of September 11. The war on Iraq is an unlawful war schemed from distorted, unconfirmed intelligence and blind confidence on the WMD in Iraq. Even the 9/11 Committee reports admit that there is no evidence of the WMD in Iraq since the early 90s, no working relations between Al Qaeda and the Iraqi administration, thus the rationale of the war was fictitious and deceitful. The war on Iraq is an unjustifiable war born from the warmongering American neo-conservative leaders who have tried to use national and international securities as an excuse to incriminate and pound any nation they see as threat to America's interests. The Bush administration irreversibly damaged the global rule of international law that favors peaceful settlement of disputes by waging a war against Iraq, a sovereign country, without substantive evidence on the WMD, international sanction, and consensus from its own people.

The death toll from this wrongfully induced war has been very costly for both Iraqis and Americans. Thousands of Iraqis, mostly civilians, and hundreds of American soldiers were killed unnecessarily. As a result of these law-flouting killings still carried out today in excuse of destroying terrorist militants, you and we are not in a more safe or peaceful world, nor are the Iraqis anywhere near peace or stability. The

war on Iraq did not bring out anything near democracy to the region but hatred, even fiercer anti-American sentiment, and unprecedented political unrest in the mid East. The war on Iraq, even if we took the Bush administration's good will as genuine, is nothing but a total failure that will only bring along a total security crisis over the world.

If not stopped, the Bush administration and its paneling neo-cons, the conceivers of ongoing massacre, will continue rushing forward their course of actions as in the war on Iraq. They will continue suppressing the sane voices counseling caution and the democratic will from people of the world protesting America's unilateral use of force upon false belief.

If Bush is reelected to the White House, the chances are for another couple of wars. In Far East Asia for one, even though the six-party talk to solve the North Korea nuclear issue is sailing on in relatively favorable weather, many people see it as only a temporary gesture from the Bush administration in dire need of a reward to show off for their offensive and counter-fruitful militarism in the war on terrorism. If Bush is reelected, military tension built up on the Korean peninsula for over five decades will flare up again with America's criminalizing demand on the nuclear program and the North's dead-end resistance.

The hegemony-seeking foreign policies by the Bush administration are rekindling or funding unilateral militarism rising again from some Asian governments. Behind the mirroring policies against democracy and peaceful resolution of conflicts such as the amendment of the Peace Constitution and military rearmament of Japan, or running after natives in the name of anti-terrorism by authoritarian governments in South East Asia, there is the culprit of unilateral US militarism.

American citizens may ask us why. The very first American reaction to the events of September 11 was also 'why us'. The proof how different the way America looks at itself became from that of the rest of the world. The Bush administration has gaped this gorge between the American and non-American views wider than ever before. We urge you to see the paradox of the situation you are in, where the more terrorist acts cracked down on, the more terrorist acts spring out. The more freedom and democracy you want for the mid East, the more destruction and obstruction of both for mid Eastern people. The unequal wars waged by the US in Afghanistan and Iraq in the name of "civilized world" only made ashes out of some of the very treasures handed down in the several thousand-year-old civilization.

We urge you to see that the United States of America is looked at as the most dangerous and destructive nation in the world by civilized global societies. By the rest of the world your country is looked at as an Empire, looming large over the globe with the pre-emptive strike doctrine and the blind anti-terrorism policies depending heavily on macho military measures and ignorance of human rights, fear of others and hatred for democracy. We the intellectuals from Asia and many others in global societies believe that the world is safer without Bush.

We hear that even some Americans believe that under the Bush leadership, true American values and America's republican tradition have seriously been damaged. In the past the United States of America was lauded as a country with freedom of thoughts and other human rights, respectful to the UN Charter in preference of democratic and nonmilitary resolution of conflicts.

Under the Bush administration, that republicanism gave way to America-only unilateralism, in which in the name of national security they can go at anybody or any country. They gave themselves the necessary mandates to do that, taking away basic civil rights and freedom in law's name. To many of us the Bush government is an exception in the long republican tradition you are down from. If Bush is reelected, this exception, this fatal abnormalcy in which you American citizens are bound against your own will, will be the American normalcy that will take even more costly tolls into a long future.

The clock is ticking toward the Presidential elections in November in which you will have to make a decision in lockstep with that long future, not only for you Americans but also for all of us in the rest of the world. We urge you to cast your vote in large numbers and in consideration of the influences the results will have on global societies. The issue of not reelecting Bush is not only an American matter but also the one for all of us, because we see that under the Bush administration, peace and democracy in Asia will be only a dream long gone. We appeal to you Americans, because in the process of globalization in which the world becomes interdependent and you and we must share a common responsibility more than ever before, we as part of the global civil societies have a right to voice against the wrong direction in which American politics has galloped for the past four years.

We appeal to you American citizens for listening to us telling you that with Bush once again in Presidency, America and the rest of the world will become even more unsafe. Under Bush the peace and freedom will be bred only on others' blood and others' hatred.

We urge you American citizens not to vote for a President who will turn the rest of the global societies to your enemy. We ask you to find in Asia your friends and good-willed business partners, and not to leave those friends under the devious, blind, and destructive governance against true democracy and freedom by the Bush administration. We hope you see the truth in our saying that "Another America is Possible".

We in the name of Asian Intellectuals hereby recapitulate our points as follows:

1. With the forthcoming Presidential elections, America stands at the crossroad whether or not it will turn the global societies to its enemy, whether or not it will see a total breakdown of its moral leadership.
2. The past four years under the Bush administration have witnessed too many killings and sufferings, for both America and the rest of the world. Its exclusive and military hegemony-seeking policies brought forth a broad and seething rejections from all corners of the globe.

3. We intellectuals of Asia have the right and duty to deliver caution and concern from our side against the Bush government, because the influences its foreign policies have on Asia have been worse than ever before.

4. The 2004 US Presidential elections are not just an American event but also the event with significance stretching across the globe. We urge you American citizens to look back on the unnecessary and immoral wars conceived and actualized by the Bush administration, and vote in large numbers and in consideration of the influences the result will have on all the other parts of the world. We appeal to you American citizens of goodwill to vote for peace and true democracy, upon this sane and cautious belief from all of us that "Another America is Possible".